

Walking through New York City I can tell you that the pain is very deep and very real but so is the resolve to rebuild and to not give into terror.

I have never been so moved by the actions of everyday people.

I have held the relatives of the missing as they sob for their loved ones while they proclaim in the same breath that they have never been so proud of New York City and America.

I have witnessed ashen-faced firefighters, as they move uptown after working at ground zero, applauded and embraced by total strangers as if returning from battle.

New Yorkers want a response to the madness of September 11th. Passage of the resolution will solidify this country's ability to take military action.

Congress stands with the President. And when the perpetrators have been identified, this resolution says that we will support President Bush when he takes action against the cowards who attacked our beloved country.

A day after Pearl Harbor was attacked, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a great President and a great New Yorker said: "I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again."

International terrorism should never endanger us again! I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

SIKHS CONDEMN ATTACK ON UNITED STATES

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has written a letter to President Bush condemning Tuesday's brutal terrorist attack on the United States. This terrible attack is an act of war against all Americans and the freedom-loving people of all the world. The Council has also issued an excellent press release on the matter.

In the letter, the Council's President, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, writes, "On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place this letter to President Bush and the Council of Khalistan's press release on the bombing into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
GURU GOBIND SINGH JI, TENTH MASTER,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2001.
Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails. This is a terrible tragedy and we know that you will take appropriate action. Like all Americans and all decent people everywhere, we condemn this brutal senseless attack.

The Sikh religion recognizes all humanity as our brothers and we pray for the well-being of all. Our prayers and our sympathies are with the people of the United States at this tragic time. We especially pray for the families of those who have departed. May God bring peace to these departed souls and to their families.

We support you and we pray for the people of America. God bless you and God bless America.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President,
Council of Khalistan.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNS ATTACK ON UNITED STATES

URGES SIKHS TO GIVE BLOOD

WASHINGTON, DC.—SEPTEMBER 12, 2001—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned the brutal attack on the United States that occurred yesterday.

"On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails," Dr. Aulakh said.

"I urge Sikh Americans to give blood and to pray for the victims, for their families, and for all those who are helping our country and our communities in this time of need," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must do our part as American citizens," he said. "We stand together as a nation."

"Like all Americans and all decent people everywhere, we condemn this brutal and senseless attack. The Sikh religion recognizes all the human race as one and we pray for the well-being of all. Our prayers and our sympathies are with the people of the United States at this tragic time. We especially pray for the families of those who have departed."

"This tragic event happened in the most diverse city in the world," Dr. Aulakh said. "There is hardly a national or ethnic group that has not been touched directly by this tragedy. Our sympathies are extended to those who have been touched personally," he said. "Violence against innocent people of any religion or ethnicity is unacceptable. It must be ended."

Unfortunately, some people have engaged in violence against Sikhs in the wake of the bombings yesterday. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked in Brooklyn. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. A Sikh boy was even shot in New York.

"Today we all stand together as Americans, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity," he said. "We must not accept terrorism. We must unite against this evil," he said. "We must work to bring all Americans together to defeat this brutal enemy."

September 20, 2001

CONDEMNING BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ARAB-AMERICANS, AMERICAN MUSLIMS, AND AMERICANS FROM SOUTH ASIA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today, I speak in support of House Concurrent Resolution 227, condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York City, New York, and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001.

Our nation suffered a horrendous tragedy on September 11, 2001. There is no question that those responsible for this heinous act must be brought to justice. However, we must not further compound the tragedy by turning against each other in our time of grief and anger. Unfortunately, in the aftermath of the recent attack, there have been reports of violence against Americans of Arab and South Asian descent. This is nothing short of divisive, and is unacceptable, unconscionable, and un-American.

The Arab-American, South Asian-American, and American Muslim communities are an integral part of the United States. The state of Michigan itself has one of the largest Middle Eastern communities outside of the Middle East. Like all Americans, members of these communities are outraged by the recent attacks upon our nation. As law abiding and patriotic citizens of our nation they do not deserve our rancor, but the dignity afforded to every American.

Indeed, in the wake of the recent terrorists attacks, the rights and liberties of all Americans must continue to be respected and upheld. We must relentlessly pursue those guilty of this cowardly act, and refrain from lashing out against the innocent. I fully support the language of H. Con. Res. 227, which stresses that throughout our search for the perpetrators of the terrorists acts of September 11, 2001, our nation will continue to adhere to the civil rights and civil liberties that has made the United States the land of the free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Mr. KIND Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 343, unfortunately, due to an unavoidable weather delay I missed today's rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."